

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Notice of Public Meeting and Public Comment for a
Total Maximum Daily Load Study in Lower Nansemond River, Suffolk

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will host a public meeting on a water quality study for Bleakhorn Creek, Knotts Creek, and Bennett Creek located in the City of Suffolk, Virginia on **Monday February 8, 2010**.

The meeting will start at **6:00 p.m.** in the **Creekside Elementary School cafeteria**, 1000 Bennetts Creek Park Road, Suffolk. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and discuss the study with interested local community members and local government.

Bleakhorn Creek (VAT-G13E-10), Knotts Creek (VAT-G13E-11), and Bennett Creek (VAT-G13E-12) were identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired for not supporting the Shellfishing Use. The impairment is based on the shellfish harvesting condemnation of Growing Area 46 (063-046A, B, and C Lower Nansemond River) imposed by the Virginia Department of Health-Division of Shellfish Sanitation.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report and subsequent Water Quality Assessment Reports.

During the study, DEQ will develop a Total Maximum Daily Load for the impaired water. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, pollutant levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

The public comment period on materials presented at this meeting will extend from February 8, 2010 through March 10, 2010. For additional information or to submit comments, contact Jennifer Howell, in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd, Virginia Beach VA 23462, by phone (757) 518-2111 or by e-mail jennifer.howell@deq.virginia.gov.

* Additional information is also available on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.